WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information communication apparatus comprising:

enciphering means for the transmission information; and

cipher process selection means for selecting whether or not to use said enciphering means at the communication of information.

2. An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cipher process selection means includes:

designation means for designating whether or not to execute enciphering on said transmission information; and

means for selecting whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the designation from an information transmitting person.

3. An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cipher process selection means includes medium discrimination means for discriminating the communication medium connecting the apparatus of the information transmitting side and the apparatus of the information receiving side, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the connecting communication medium.

4. An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cipher process selection means includes cipher permission discrimination means for discriminating whether the deciphering is possible at the apparatus of the information receiving side, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the result of said discrimination.

5. An information communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cipher process selection means includes secrecy level discrimination means for discriminating the level of secrecy of said transmission information, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the result of said discrimination.

6. An information communication apparatus comprising:

cipher discrimination means for discriminating whether the received information is enciphered; and

error process means for executing a predetermined error process in case said cipher discrimination means identifies that said received information is enciphered.

7. An information communication method for

selecting whether or not to use a cipher process for the information to be transmitted, at the transmission thereof.

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8. An information communication method according to claim 7, wherein the selection whether or not to use the cipher process for said transmission information is made according to a designation from the information transmitting person.

9. An information communication method according to claim 7, wherein the selection whether or not to use the cipher process for said transmission information is made according to a communication medium used among different communication media enabling communication between the apparatus of the information transmitting side and the apparatus of the information receiving side.

10. An information communication method according to claim 7, wherein the selection whether or not to use the cipher process for said transmission information is made according to the result of a discrimination whether the deciphering is possible at the apparatus of the information receiving side.

11. An information communication method according

to claim 7, wherein the selection whether or not to use the cipher process for said transmission information is made according to the level of secrecy of said transmission information.

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12. An information communication method comprising steps of:

a) discriminating whether the received information is enciphered; and

b) executing a predetermined error process in case said received information is discriminated to be enciphered.

13. An information communication system comprising:

an information transmitting apparatus including enciphering means for the transmission information; and cipher process selection means for selecting whether or not to use said enciphering means at the communication of information; and

an information receiving apparatus including at least decoding means for decoding the non-ciphered received information; cipher discrimination means for discriminating whether the received information is enciphered; and error process means for executing a predetermined error process in case said received information is discriminated as to be enciphered.

14. An information communication system comprising;

an information transmitting apparatus including enciphering means for the transmission information; and cipher process selection means for selecting whether or not to use said enciphering means at the communication of information; and

an information receiving apparatus including cipher discrimination means for discriminating whether the received information is enciphered; and decoding means for decoding the enciphered received information, in case said received information is discriminated as being enciphered.

15. An information communication system according to claim 13, wherein said cipher process selection means includes designation means for designating whether or not to execute enciphering of said transmission information, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the designation from the information transmitting person.

16. An information communication system according to claim 13, wherein said cipher process selection means includes medium discrimination means for discriminating the communication medium connecting said information transmitting apparatus and said information

receiving apparatus, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the connected communication medium.

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17. An information communication system according to claim 13, wherein said cipher process selection means includes cipher permission discrimination means for discriminating whether the deciphering is possible in said information receiving apparatus, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the result of said discrimination.

18. An information communication system according to claim 13, wherein said cipher process selection means includes secrecy level discrimination means for discriminating the level of secrecy of said transmission information, and selects whether or not to use said enciphering means according to the result of said discrimination.

19. A computer readable memory medium storing a program for functioning a computer as means described in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1.

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20. A computer readable memory medium storing a program for functioning a computer as means described in ~~any of claims 7 to 12~~ claim 7.

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21. A communication apparatus comprising:

a) enciphering means for enciphering information;

b) means for discriminating whether an intermediate transfer device is present in a transmission channel; and

c) control means for causing said enciphering means to encipher the information in case said discrimination means discriminates that the intermediate transfer device is present.

22. A communication apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said intermediate transfer device is a server.

23. A communication apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said discrimination means is adapted to discriminate whether said intermediate transfer device is present, based on the destination address of the information.